

Dear Legislator,

As a resident of the great State of Connecticut, I thank you for your service to our State. It is with concern that I write to you today, regarding "*HB 5326- An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients*"- more aptly named the "Assisted Suicide Bill".

I am asking you to **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Allowing some lives to be considered less valuable today—those with terminal illnesses—will ultimately lead to discussions about who might be less valuable tomorrow—those with mental illness, severe disabilities, the elderly. It is a poor decision for politicians, as caring as I'm sure you are, to be creating policy related to medical care and the value of life- in this case, the ending of a life.

Organizations such as the Connecticut Medical Association and the Connecticut Hospice Association opposed assisted suicide last year. If organizations such as these, who are committed to caring for terminally ill patients are opposed to this legislation, you must wonder what motivations exist for those who support this bill. Disabilities rights advocates and other groups purport, and I agree, that policies such as HB 5326 put vulnerable populations: the elderly, disabled, socioeconomically disadvantaged at greater risk of being taken advantage of. A society who becomes insensitive to the weakest, most vulnerable among us, will ultimately deem them a burden and ultimately ration care and compassion to them- the exact opposite of the title of this bill.

I have watched 2 of my grandparents die with dignity and compassion through hospice care. Instead of taking a life, let's provide more funding and more training for doctors, nurses, care staff and volunteers to allow the process of dying to continue to be one of dignity with compassion. Let's find ways to support families as they care for and love these vulnerable family members while they receive the care they need to ease their pain and suffering. Every life is a life of value.

Please VOTE NO on HB 5326 or any other bill that supports Assisted Suicide.

Thank you again for your time and concern regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Wallace
Prospect, Connecticut